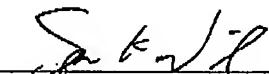


With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-10 and 16-20 and Group II, claims 11-15 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other. In particular, the claimed feature of the semiconductor device (group II), that "the freestanding semiconductor layer having a crystallinity substantially similar to that of the base structure" (claim 11), is the unique result of the claimed forming method including "recrystallizing the polycrystalline semiconductor layer to have crystallinity substantially similar to that of the base structure." (Claim 1). As a consequence, a search for either the claimed forming method or the semiconductor device would include the subject matter of the other. "Where the claims of an application define the same essential characteristics of a *single* disclosed embodiment of an invention, restriction therebetween should never be required. This is because the claims are but different definitions of the same disclosed subject matter, varying in breath or scope of definition." MPEP § 806.03. (Emphasis in original).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement between Groups I and II. Should the examiner require anything further from Applicants, the examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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